

# World War I

The End of the War



# Events of 1917

## ► United States

- Sinking of *Lusitania* and other ships by German U-boats eventually convinces Americans to enter WWI (April 1917)
  - Ger. supports Mexico
- American troops slow to arrive in Europe, but by mid-1918 over 1 million in France, with 10,000 arriving each day



# Events of 1917

## ► Russian Revolution

- In November, Czar Nicholas II and government overthrown by Bolsheviks (communists/socialists led by Vladimir Lenin)
- New government signs treaty with Germany, ends Russia's participation in WWI, allows Germany to focus on Western Front



# Germany's Last Push West

- ▶ Germany racing west to take advantage of the period before American troops arrive
- ▶ Germans push west, get to 75km from Paris
  - Ypres, the Somme, Passchendaele taken
  - Exhausted, no supplies, no replacements

# Hundred Days Campaign

- ▶ Starting August 1918, series of Allied attacks to push Germans back
- ▶ Canadian troops played large role
  - Successfully broke through Hindenburg Line, a series of German defences in France
  - General Arthur Currie considered it Canada's greatest achievement in WWI



# Hundred Day Campaign



# Collapse of the Central Powers

- ▶ October 1918 – Austro-Hungarian Empire splits up; separate states negotiate peace with Allies
- ▶ November 1918 – revolution in Germany; Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates; republic declared





# Armistice

- ▶ Armistice –  
November 11, 1918
  - "armistice" = truce
  - Signed in railcar in France
  - Between Allies and Germany
  - In effect 11:00AM, Nov. 11, 1918





# Armistice



# Armistice



# Peace Process

## ► Paris Peace Conference

- January 1919
- Allies to discuss terms of peace agreement
- PM Borden demands separate seat at conference, rather than Britain representing Canada
  - Also signed Treaty separately
- Talks dominated by Britain, France, USA, but Canada made its presence felt
- Result was the Treaty of Versailles

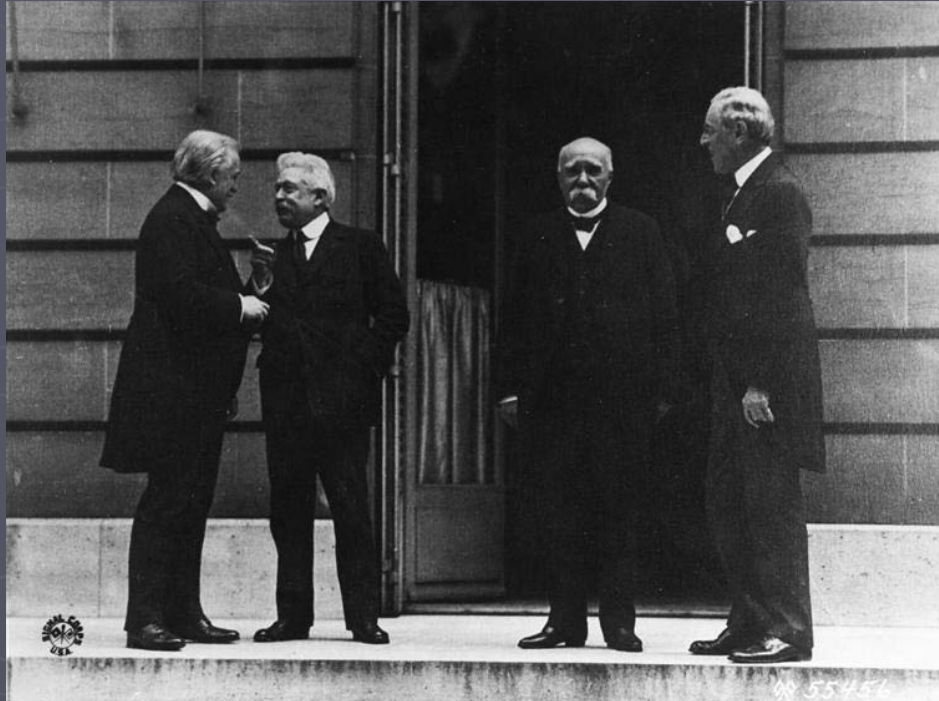


# Paris Peace Conference



# Treaty of Versailles

- ▶ Signed on June 28, 1919
- ▶ Laid out terms of peace for Germany
- ▶ President Wilson proposed 14-point plan based on forgiveness and future international cooperation
- ▶ France and Belgium wanted Germany to pay

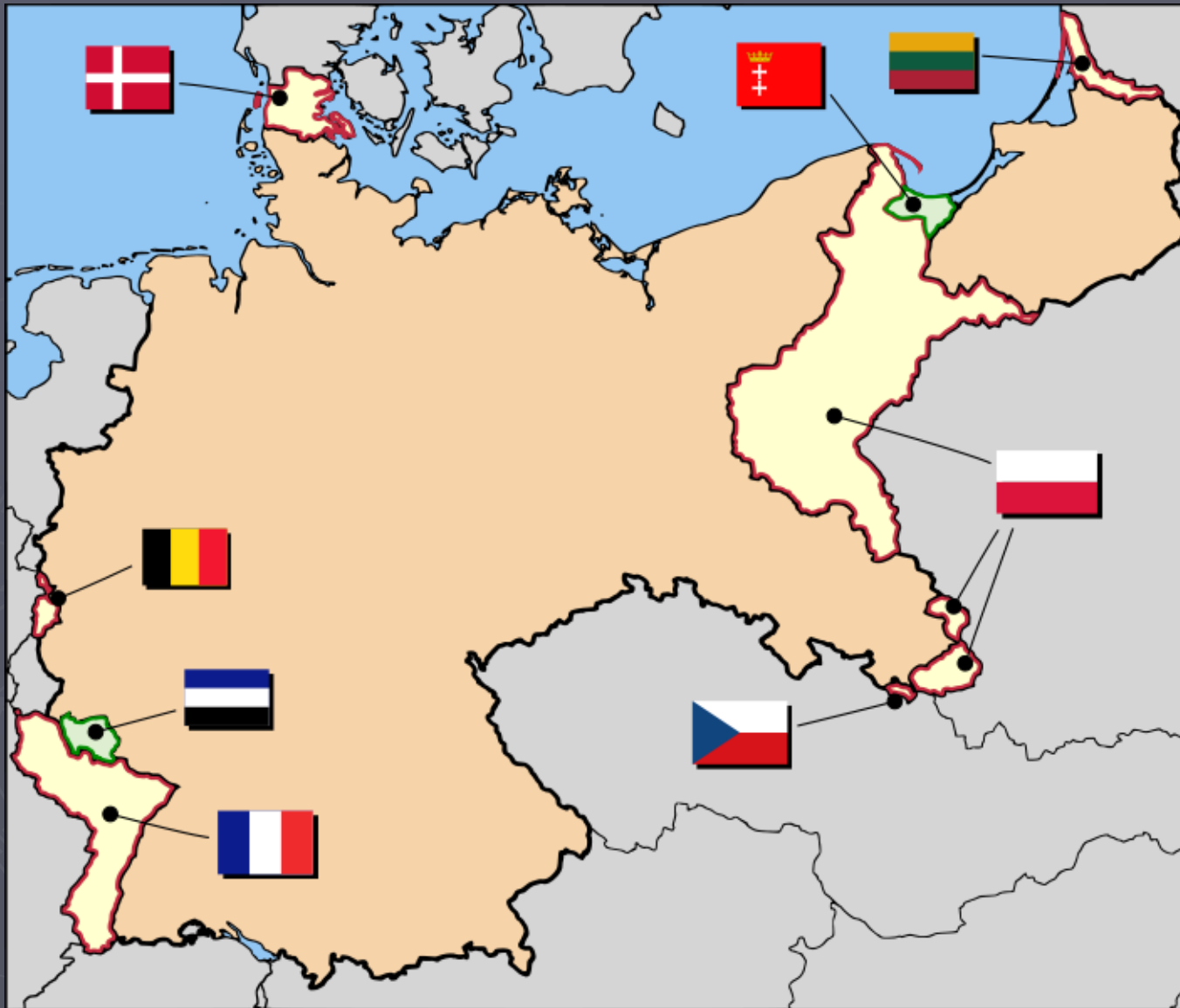


# Treaty of Versailles

- ▶ German "War Guilt Clause"
- ▶ Reparations - \$30 billion (\$300+ billion today)
  - Unable to meet payments
- ▶ Germany loses land to France and Poland, among others (split in two)
- ▶ German army limited to 100,000 soldiers
- ▶ Not allowed U-boats or an air force
- ▶ League of Nations formed



# Treaty of Versailles



# League of Nations

- ▶ President Wilson's idea
- ▶ Similar to today's United Nations
- ▶ Collective Security – one country is attacked, others help defend it
- ▶ Britain and France not enthused about League
  - Wanted to remain imperialistic
  - League popular with the public
- ▶ Canada an independent member of League

# League of Nations

## ► Limitations

- Required co-operation (not a good track record)
- No military force, only economic sanctions
- Americans refused to join, even though Wilson's idea





# League of Nations



THE GAP IN THE BRIDGE.

# Aftermath of WWI

- ▶ 16 million dead worldwide
  - 10 million soldiers, 6 million civilians
  - 21 million wounded
- ▶ 66,000 Canadians dead, 170,000 wounded
- ▶ Veterans in Canada
  - No steady pensions or special medical services
  - Few jobs available
    - ▶ Many business owners had become very rich
  - Worse for Aboriginal veterans despite service

# Spanish Influenza

## ► Spanish Influenza

- Spread by soldiers returning home
- 21 million dead worldwide
  - Including 55,000 Canadians
- Many small Aboriginal communities almost wiped out
- Schools and public places closed for months
- Some places required people to wear breathing masks in public



# Spanish Influenza



# Spanish Influenza



# Effect of WWI on Canada

- ▶ National Identity
- ▶ Economy
- ▶ Women's Rights
- ▶ Canadian Autonomy
- ▶ International Status
- ▶ French-English Relations
- ▶ Racial Discrimination
- ▶ Thousands Dead and Wounded